

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-14 and add the claims set forth below.

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (new) A method of forming a medical device comprising the steps of:

providing an optical fiber core having a proximal end and a distal face;

associating the proximal end of the core with an optical connector;

enclosing the optical fiber core in a continuous, uninterrupted sleeve, wherein the sleeve has a length at least substantially the length of the optical fiber core extending from the optical connector to the distal face of the optical fiber core.

Claim 16. (new) The method of Claim 15 wherein the step of enclosing the optical fiber core in the sleeve comprises extending the sleeve distally of the distal face of the optical fiber core.

Claim 17. (new) The method of Claim 15 comprising forming a tip in the sleeve distal of distal face of the optical fiber core.

Claim 18. (new) The method of Claim 15 comprising providing an optical coupling layer intermediate a portion of the sleeve and a distal portion of the optical fiber core.

Claim 19. (new) The method of Claim 15 comprising forming a tip in the sleeve distal of the distal face of the optical fiber core, wherein a space is provided intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the sleeve tip.

Claim 20. (new) The method of Claim 19 comprising disposing a component in the space provided intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the sleeve tip.

Claim 21. (new) The method of Claim 20 comprising disposing a light scattering component in the space provided intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the sleeve tip.

Claim 22. (new) The method of Claim 15 comprising the step of abrading a portion of the inner surface of the sleeve.

Claim 23. (new) The method of Claim 15 wherein the step of enclosing the optical fiber core in the sleeve results in the sleeve touching the core.

Claim 24. (new) A method of making a medical device comprising the steps of:

 exposing a distal portion of an optical fiber core;
 sliding a continuous, uninterrupted sleeve over substantially the full length of the fiber core; and
 providing an optical coupling layer intermediate the distal portion of the optical fiber core and the sleeve.

Claim 25. (new) The method of Claim 24 further comprising forming a tissue penetrating tip distal of a distal face of the optical fiber core.

Claim 26. (new) The method of Claim 25 comprising providing a space intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the tissue penetrating tip.

Claim 27. (new) The method of Claim 25 comprising disposing a material having fluorescent properties intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the tip.

Claim 28. (new) The method of Claim 24 comprising the step of contacting the fiber optic core with the sleeve.

Claim 29. (new) The method of Claim 24 comprising the step of abrading a portion of the inner surface of the sleeve.

Claim 30. (new) A method of forming a medical device comprising the steps of:

- providing a continuous, uninterrupted light transmitting sleeve;

- providing a length of optical fiber comprising an optical fiber core;

- associating a proximal end of the optical fiber core with an optical connector; and

- providing a light transmitting sleeve around the optical fiber and extending in a continuous, uninterrupted fashion from the connector to a distal portion of the optical fiber.